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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,449	11/28/2003	Myung Ho Kang	0465-1095P	8263
2292	7590	10/19/2005	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			HUSBAND, SARAH E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1746	

DATE MAILED: 10/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/722,449	KANG, MYUNG HO
	Examiner Sarah E. Husband	Art Unit 1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 28 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: Dishwasher with lock and elastic coupling member.

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: paragraphs 8, 13, 33 and 72 contain spelling and/or grammatical errors.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

Claims 12 and 19 are objected to because of the following informalities: “witch” should be correctly spelled “switch”. Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 3, 6, 10, 11, 13, 16 and 20 are objected to because of the following informalities: the phrase “brought contact” is correctly written “brought into contact”. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless – (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 10-12, 14-16, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jacobson (US Patent No. 3,133,168).

Jacobson discloses a dishwasher (10) having a cabinet (12), a door (20), a latch mechanism (locker), coupling member (62), and a switch (80). Jacobson also discloses a spring attached to a plate (68) and the coupling members being brought into contact with both sides of the locker (Fig. 4). Jacobson further describes an inclined portion of the locker (50) brought into contact with the coupling members (62), which the front end inclines slower than the rear end (See Fig. 4). Jacobson also discloses a switch with a button (82) (See entire document, esp. col. 2-3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 5, 8, 9 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobson.

Jacobson discloses the dishwasher and locking mechanism shown above in the 102(b) rejection. Jacobson does not specifically disclose two pairs of fixing protrusions wherein both of the first and second coupling members are hooked to be coupled to the fixing protrusions. Jacobson does disclose a pair of fixing protrusions (Fig. 3, Item 64) which both of the coupling members are attached (hooked). However, one of ordinary skill in the art would foresee that the fixing protrusions should be present on the opposite side of the coupling member (side not shown) forming two pairs and there would also be guides on

both of these sides as well (Item 70). Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide these fixing protrusions for the benefit of the locking mechanism operating more smoothly.

Claims 13 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobson in view of Ito (US Patent No. 6,539,753).

Jacobson discloses the door locking mechanism above in the 102(b) and 103(a) rejections. Jacobson does not expressly disclose the button directly in contact with the locker. Ito discloses the button of the switch in direct contact with the locker (claw) (Fig. 3,4, 7; col. 6-7). Jacobson and Ito are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, door locks for washing apparatus. At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jacobson with Ito for the benefit of easily detecting when the door is open.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art not referred to are Matsuno (US 6578587) and Ellingson (US 4510777), who teach door locking mechanisms.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sarah E. Husband whose telephone number is (571) 272-8387. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael E. Barr can be reached at (571) 272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SEH



MICHAEL BARR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER